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1961-09-25, Bette to Parents

Bette J. Barto

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Subject Terms

Women and the military, Women and war, United States -- Air Force, United States -- Army -- Air Forces, Photographs, Armed Forces -- Correspondence, Correspondence -- Vietnam War -- 1961-1975, Christmas

Summary

This collection contains 139 correspondence from Maj. Bette J. Barto, USAFE to her parents while serving as a nurse during the late 1950s and 1960s. Also included are three photographs, one special orders document, and one marriage license. In several cases, Bette refers to her parents as "Lizzie" and "Hugh Elmer," or simply "Elmer." Three letters from 1961 or 1962 are undated and placed in a separate folder.

Keywords

1961-09-25

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25 September 61.
Monday 10^{am}

Dear Mom and Daddy,

I probably won't get much written on this while at work, but I'll start anyway.

There isn't much new stuff to tell you except that Jones finally came after my dining room furniture to repair it. If they don't do a job to suit us we will still be able to trade it for another model. Ray told them to take their time and do it right; so we will be satisfied with it.

In regard to our decision to start investing in a Mutual Stock fund, we won't do anything right away until Ray comes home anyway. The main thing is we want to continue to save, but feel we might have more in the long run if we save this way. The company we are with is Powell & Kistler Inc. of Winston, N.C. They are members of the N.Y. Stock Exchange plus other major exchanges. The broker who will work with us is a retired Army officer, Mr. Martin, who seems to be very conservative. He too does not

believe in putting all your eggs in one basket.

The way he recommends us to do; he says we should invest what ever amt. we can afford in the Mutual Fund which would include old, tried & true companies - an example (for there are many combinations to select) would be. American Tel. & Tel., Gen. Motors, Jetaco, Gen. Electric, Coca Cola. etc. - This is a long-term type of stock investment. Then if we have any more to invest we can from time to time invest a small amt. in a new, rising stock such as an electronics firm that has contracts with the Defense Depart. for long-term Missile Stations etc. The broker, of course, advises in these things. He only gets paid a salary, not a commission; unless he clients are successful, his salary isn't much, so it behoves him to be right. He also doesn't recommend that you invest more than will leave you some savings to turn into ready cash for emergencies. He says the money put into Mutual Investments shouldn't be bothered for at least 2-3 years unless absolutely necessary.

We are listening to Pres. Kennedy before the Gen. Assembly of the U.N. He is

trying, I must admit, but I fear his words are not strong enough.

Well, I must stop and do some work. I dread to go home to our empty house. I can't find anything to do with myself for the first day at so without Ray. I even make lists of things to do and still can't fill the hours.

10 PM

Home and about ready for bed. I went shopping for some cardstock to recover my living room throw pillows and also found a thermometer for our freezer. Then I had supper with one of the nurse captains and our girl physiotherapist who is also a Captain. She lives off base - has 3 big pets - one big dog + 2 little cuddly ones. So I had roast beef and dog hairs for supper. ah, well, it takes all kinds to make a world. We watched TV for about an hour after we ate and came home. Now I have to wash clothes, write Ray, polish shoes + go to bed. That at least keeps me busy until I get sleepy.

Perhaps you have read or heard of the heroic efforts of a helicopter crew from Seymour at the plane crash in Wilmington. If Ray hadn't been leaving Sunday morning I might have been on the crew. They asked me to go at the last minute so I didn't have time to clear it with Col. Meigs. so I didn't go. It must have been something. Well, I'll stop + write Ray -

I Love you both
Betty